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MARCH 18, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 11

## Haiti vol faces new charge

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Laura Silsby, the last of 10 Baptist missions volunteers detained in Haiti on suspicion of kidnapping, now faces a new charge.

Silsby, who led the mission team, now is accused of attempting to take 40 children out of Haiti without proper paperwork on Jan. 26, three days before the 10-member team was prevented from crossing the border into the Dominican Republic with 33 children.

Haitian Judge Bernard Saint-Vil announced on March 12 the additional charge of "organizing irregular travel." The judge said he has until early May to decide whether to release Silsby or order a trial. The 10 volunteers were arrested Jan. 29 for trying to take 33 children out of the earthquake-ravaged country to a makeshift orphanage in the Dominican Republic.



**FIRST LOAD** — Clay Hathcock of Durant, a member of the Central Hills Retreat staff, is seen loading the first pallet of buckets received at the camp. The Buckets of Hope ministry is designed to provide a Haitian family ample food for a week. (Photo by Tony Martin)

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Buckets of Hope en route to EQ victims

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

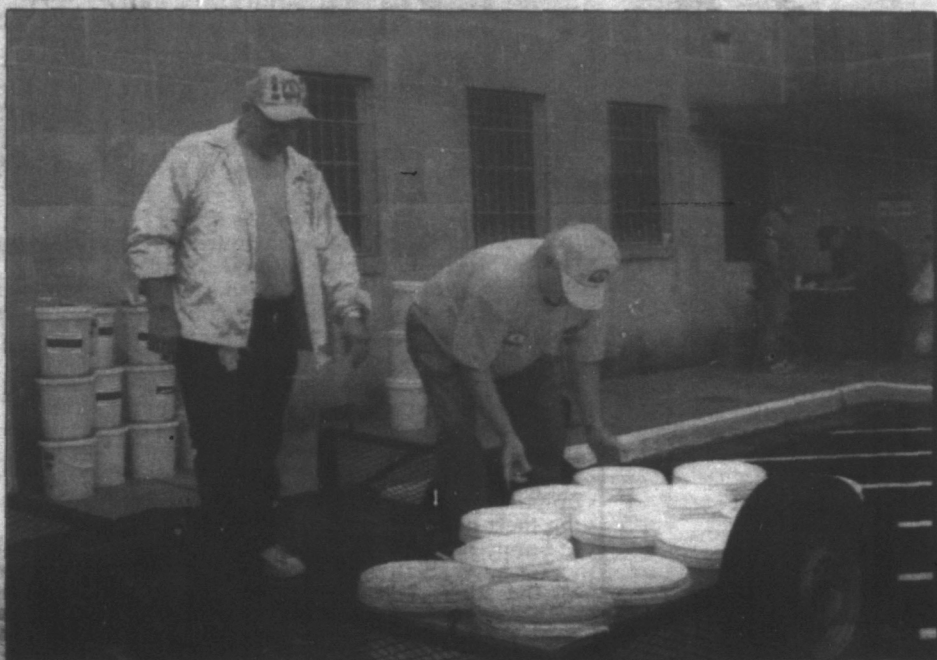
Over the past several weeks, Mississippi Baptists have rallied to the mandate of Jesus Christ to feed the hungry in His name. The Buckets of Hope ministry has proven to be a way for Mississippi Baptists and other Southern Baptists across the country to meet the food needs of Haitians in the aftermath of the country's devastating earthquake.

According to Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, over 5700 buckets had arrived at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko as of March 12, with more buckets arriving daily. Buckets were received at nine other sites scattered across the state in addition to the primary site at Central Hills.

"We had originally anticipated about 3000 buckets," said Gann, "but folks have responded, because this is something anyone could do." Buckets came from individuals, churches, and missions groups such as Royal Ambassadors.

Each Bucket of Hope consisted of a five-gallon bucket packed with selected foodstuffs, including rice, black beans, spaghetti, flour, oil, peanut butter, and sugar. The food is sufficient to feed a Haitian family for a week. Even after the supplies are used, the buckets can serve multiple uses for the family. Buckets cost approximately \$30 to assemble, plus a requested \$10 to offset the cost of transportation.

Buckets collected in various areas of the state were transported to Central Hills. From there, the buckets were placed on pallets and made secure for shipping, with trucks going from Central Hills to Jacksonville, FL, and from there to the port of Saint Marc in Haiti. As evidence of



**THE HEART OF THE VOLUNTEERS** — Members of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force unload buckets at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board library annex. Buckets received were sent to Central Hills Retreat for eventual shipment to Jacksonville, FL, and on to the port of Saint Marc, Haiti. (Photo by Tony Martin)

God's providence, a trucking company donated the use of two semi trucks to Central Hills. "The largest group of buckets came from the Tupelo area," said Gann. "There were also large groups from the Meridian area and from Kemper County."

The story behind the buckets actually originated with Haitian Baptists. The Florida Baptist Convention has had an active ministry in Haiti for some years and had strong ties to many Haitian churches and pastors.

"Florida did this type of ministry after a string of hurricanes in Haiti," Gann said, "so it was the Haitian pastors who suggested that we provide buckets. There was discussion about providing boxes of supplies, but the buckets seemed to be the most useful to Haitians."

Suggestions as to what went in each bucket came from the Haitian pastors. The items in each bucket are "things the Haitians like and would eat," said Gann, although he also noted that Haitians "like jalapenos in their peanut butter."

As one notable strategic move, all the buckets will be distributed through the local churches by the local pastors, rather than any Americans attempting the distribution process themselves. In response to the oft-asked

question, "How do we know the buckets will make it to Haitian families instead of getting held up in customs?" Gann noted simply that the native Haitians would be able to get the buckets through customs where Americans probably couldn't.

Once the buckets arrive in Haiti at Saint Marc, they will be released on a staggered basis so that the churches aren't overwhelmed with hundreds of thousands of buckets from across the country. They will be distributed as churches request them.

The success of the Buckets of Hope ministry has been due to the diligent work of several parties. "Word went out initially to the Associational Missions Directors and the directors of men's ministries in the churches," said Gann. "We also promoted through the MBCB website and The Baptist Record, and folks just responded."

Gann also praised the scores of volunteers across the state who participated in this ministry — collecting buckets, delivering them to Central Hills and other locations, labeling, palletizing, and loading them. "We simply couldn't do it without them," he said.

As of March 3, Southern Baptists in Haiti had recorded 2232 volunteer days; 339 professions of faith; 2696 gospel presentations; 18,138 ministry contacts; 14,720 patients seen; 22,080 medicines distributed; and 24 tons (204,000 servings) of rice distributed.

For more information on Haiti disaster relief, visit [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) and click on the appropriate links.



# Tsunami takes high toll after Chile quake

CONSTITUCIÓN, Chile (BP) — As the house trembled, Chilean pastor Juan Mauricio Muñoz prayed with his wife, son, and a young woman who was staying with them. When the 8.8-magnitude earthquake was over, they were shaken but unharmed.

The worst was yet to come. Though no tsunami warning was issued, the pastor knew to expect a wave. "We were always taught from a young age that in any kind of earthquake, you go to high ground," he said.

He rushed his family to the car and headed to his daughter's home at a higher elevation in this seaside city of Constitución, 164 miles south of Santiago.

As they were leaving, the pastor glanced across the Maule River toward an island where approximately 200 Chileans had been enjoying a late-night party. He saw the lights of nearly 30 cell phones waving frantically as partygoers trapped on the island tried to signal for help.

By then the water was rising into the street and around the wheels of his car — evidence that the 10-foot wave was quickly approaching. Horrified, Muñoz realized it was too late

to help the people on the island. Only three survived.

Just days after the Feb. 27 tragedy, Muñoz, pastor of Iglesia Bautista de Constitución (Constitución Baptist Church), showed the devastation in his neighborhood to a disaster assessment team of Southern Baptist and Chilean Baptist officials. Standing on the concrete slab where his home used to be, he fought back tears and recounted how the wave flattened everything on the waterfront. Like most of his neighbors, he lost a place to live and most of his belongings.

A street block of houses was gone. One of the family's cars was found almost three blocks uphill from his home. In one place, the water had crushed one building into the next. In another spot, the second story of a home blocked the street as if it were a one-story house.

Everywhere, people searched the ruins, sorting through soaked belongings and wondering what to do next.

As Muñoz walked past the homes of his church members and friends, he couldn't keep from weeping. The people he loved had lost so much. The devastation was overwhelm-



**TO THE GROUND** — Residents of Constitución, Chile, survey the ruins left by a tsunami that hit the coastal city following the Feb. 27 earthquake. Constitución Baptist Church escaped damage and is housing about 20 displaced people. It also is a distribution center for relief supplies. (BP photo)

ing — but Muñoz knew it was time to minister.

When he discovered his produce business was not damaged by the tsunami, he opened its doors and freely gave the food to people in need. His church's building, also spared, now provides housing for about 20 displaced people and serves as a center for distributing relief supplies.

While Muñoz and his church

members are showing God's love as they help their neighbors, disaster relief teams of Chilean Baptists and Southern Baptists also are working in the Maule region which includes Constitución, setting up feeding kitchens and providing food preparation training.

"We thank God we have our lives," Muñoz said. "The other things are only material and can be replaced. God is good."

## Southern Baptists pouring into Chile relief effort

CONCEPCION, Chile (BP) — Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers are on the ground in Chile, partnering with Chilean Baptists to address critical needs in two areas hit hard by the 8.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the country Feb. 27. The earthquake was followed by a number of large aftershocks and a tsunami.

A six-member team from the South Carolina Baptist Convention landed in Santiago on March 9 and a second team arrived on March 15. Two teams from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention arrived on March 12.

The teams, which specialize in mass feeding operations, will set up kitchens capable of producing as many as 1,000 meals daily.

The South Carolina team began by purchasing equipment for two kitchens, using money provided by Southern Baptist hunger and relief funds, said Charles Clark, an International Mission Board missionary who serves as strategy leader for the part of South America that includes Chile.

The South Carolina and Texas feeding teams will train Chilean Baptist partners to run the kitchens and distribute meals themselves. The approach reflects an overall strategy of assisting Chilean Baptists as they develop and fine-tune their own disaster response mechanisms.

South Carolina Baptists also are preparing to send a planeload of medical equipment, said Cliff

Satterwhite, director of disaster relief for the state convention. Five of the 13 hospitals in the quake region were destroyed and are in dire need of medical equipment and medication. The equipment, which is being donated by Southeastern Medical Supply, will be transported into Chile with the country's military providing logistical support.

The relief effort in Chile is shaping up as an excellent example of Baptist cooperation, said Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization.

"It has been wonderful to see Southern Baptists cooperating on all levels. The state disaster relief teams from Texas and South Carolina have provided solid expertise in disaster relief. The in-country partners, with the International Mission Board, provided great leadership," Palmer said, "but one of the best things was to see the partnership with Chilean Baptists, who will be there responding and ministering long after the outsiders are gone."

The initial civil disturbances, like looting and violence, that broke out in the aftermath of the earthquake have been brought under control by the Chilean military and police, according to news services. An estimated two million people have been affected by the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami that struck coastal villages. Between 500,000 and 1.5 million houses were destroyed

and access to food, water, and electricity remain critical needs.

The death toll from the disaster, however, has been reduced to 528, according to the reliefweb.int website. Apparently, the number of displaced people mistakenly was included in the death toll figure at one point.

In addition to the kitchen units, an initial disbursement of \$150,000 from Southern Baptist relief funds has been used to purchase water, first-aid supplies, and other relief materials for distribution in the quake zone, Clark said.

Another immediate need is emergency shelter, Clark said. "While some tents and tarps will be used for shelter, another option is a temporary pine-sided, tin-roofed, slatted-floor house that can be put together in a couple of hours," he said. "The materials,

labor and know-how are readily available locally. The cost is about \$500-\$600 each to construct."

"The possibility of providing 500-600 of the shelters, using \$300,000 in disaster relief funds, is being evaluated," Clark said.

"Partnership with Chilean Baptist representatives has been crucial to assessing the need and launching the joint relief effort," Clark noted.

"We have been traveling with three representatives of the Chile Baptist Convention who have been instrumental in our contacts with local Baptist churches," Clark said. "They are working on a number of different relief fronts, including food and basic needs distribution. El Sembrador Baptist Church of Talca has been generous to let us use their sanctuary as a dormitory, dining room and headquarters."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The foundation is laid for a new convention of Baptists to be based in Texas that encompasses churches in North, Central, and South America, according to articles of incorporation filed with the Texas Secretary of State. The convention would be known as the Baptist Convention of the Americas.

### 20 years ago

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta, announces he will be nominated for president of the SBC. He said the bedrock Baptist belief is "nothing less than Jesus Himself."

### 50 years ago

Louise Sparkman, youth director at First Church, Columbus, is appointed a missionary to Nigeria by the Foreign Mission Board at its March meeting in Richmond.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 18, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 11



YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

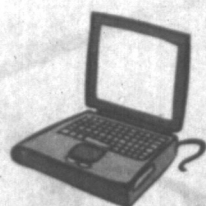
Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
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VOLUME 134 • NUMBER 11  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

# A bad case of mass laryngitis

There's a segment of Mississippi's political and business establishments that have been strangely silent for the past couple of years. They've apparently been hiding under their desks as the bad economy exposes their lies to the people of the state.

Remember when we were told a little legalized gambling on a few riverboats would solve all our money problems? Remember when we were told the small gambling venues hadn't actually solved all our problems after all, but allowing massive, permanent structures over water would? Remember when we were told the multi-billion-dollar casinos over the water weren't enough to solve our problems, but allowing them to creep on to dry land would?

As the Governor contemplates more deep cuts to an alarmingly anemic state budget and school boards across the state consider four-day school weeks to make ends meet, one has to wonder where all those vocal pro-gambling politicians and business leaders are today. They haven't been on television lately, trying to convince us that legalized gambling is an economic panacea. They haven't been on radio talk shows, arguing that we should have gambling because everyone else has it. They're not writing op-ed pieces in the newspapers defending their point of view.

Funny how that works, isn't it? We have legalized gambling. We have all the social ills that go hand-in-hand with legalized gambling. What we don't have are the economic benefits we were

"OH NO — THE PREACHER'S HERE — I MUST BE WORSE OFF THAN I THOUGHT!!"



promised. Meanwhile, the human toll continues to mount.

The former president of the Parent-Teacher Association at Timberlawn Elementary School in Jackson has joined a long list of Mississippians arrested and accused of embezzling from their employers or stealing money from the civic organizations they headed in order to gamble at the state's legal tables of fortune.

Kevin Green, president of the Jackson Council of PTA, told WAPT News in Jackson that about \$20,000 was missing from the Timberlawn account and has not been recovered. "Probably 75% of it was spent at a casino. If it didn't go directly to a

casino, it was probably something that was cashed that was going to a casino."

The impact, as always, has been devastating. "We all know the (school) district is facing budget cuts and having to cut back. What we're able to do is try to filtrate money into the school where the district can't," Green told WAPT.

Parents who helped raise the money for their children's school are demoralized. "They come to you and ask you to do these things and when you do it, they take it from you," said Timberlawn school parent A.T. Allen in the WAPT report. "You feel bad. You don't know what to do any more."

The list of fallen Mississippians includes lawyers, bankers, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others who could not resist the lure of one of the most addictive activities known to man — and all the crimes committed in the name of gambling are not "soft" crimes like embezzlement.

At least one elderly woman was murdered in her home for gambling money. A couple was slaughtered in a casino elevator for their winnings. Bank robbers go from the scene of their crimes straight to casinos, where they gamble away their ill-gotten gain in a matter of minutes. Serious crimes committed in casino parking lots are too numerous to list here.

All of this is happening in Mississippi, where we were assured by our political and business leaders that the social ills of legalized gambling would be tolerable given the unlimited amount of money that would come rolling in.

The truth had to come out sooner or later, though. Now we're living with the economic and human consequences of that bad decision. Sometimes we really do get what we deserve.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "11,773 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes," in 2008, accounting for about one-third "of all traffic-related deaths in the United States." Additionally, more than "1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics."

The stats are just as tragic for young people. In 2003, 31% of drivers ages 15-20 who died in traffic accidents had been drinking alcohol and, in 2008, more than 10 million persons ages 12-20 reported drinking alcohol in the past month. That translates roughly to 26.4% of this age group — an age group we cannot fail to notice was drinking alcoholic beverages illegally.

Even more disheartening is that 6.6 million of underage drinkers in 2008 were also "binge drinkers" (admittedly lower than in 2007 but nevertheless alarming). According to the CDC, "binge drinking" is defined as drinking patterns that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 grams percent or above. "This typically happens when men consume five or more drinks, and when women consume four or more drinks, in about two hours," the CDC says.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Surrendering to an age of indulgence

By Peter Lumpkins  
Carrollton, Ga.

I would add that the majority of "binge drinkers" are not typically considered alcoholics, even though they severely abuse intoxicating beverages.

College students may be our biggest challenge. According to the latest CDC numbers, those between the ages of 18-22 who were enrolled in full-time college studies were more likely than their peers not enrolled full time to use alcohol.

In fact, they were also more likely to severely abuse alcohol. A whopping 61% of full-time college students in 2008 were current drinkers. More significantly, over 40% practiced "binge drinking" with another 16% classified as virtually dependent (heavy drinkers).

Perhaps we need to be reminded at this juncture that the studies on the usage of alcoholic beverages rightly do

not focus on a false distinction between different kinds of "drinks." One myth which surely needs a proper burial once and for all is the false presumption that intoxication potential is greater in consuming a serving of bourbon than a standard bottle of beer. Even more popular is the belief that table wine carries the least intoxicating "punch" of any alcoholic beverage. The fact is, however, a typical can of beer (12 ounces), a shot of distilled spirits (1.5 ounces), and a serving of wine (5 ounces) have precisely the same amount of ethanol alcohol. Hence, one can rightly say, alcohol is alcohol is alcohol.

Remember: alcohol is alcohol is alcohol regardless of experiencing the buzz via bourbon, fine wines, or fancy fruit "wine-coolers."

Where are all the underage drinkers getting their alcohol? In 2008, more than 56% of drinkers ages 12-20 reported their most recent use of alcohol (within 30 days) occurred in someone else's home. However, almost 30% reported they drank in their own home.

About a third of underage drinkers pay for alcohol use, but only a fraction of those actually purchase the alcohol themselves (8.3%). The other two-thirds majority got the alcohol from persons over age 21 (37%) or persons ages 12-20 (21%).

Most troubling is that more than one in five underage drinkers get their alcohol from a parent, guardian, or other family member over age 21. Consequently, parents themselves are in some way directly responsible for thousands of teens killed on our highways every year, a horrifying but necessary reality to face.

With such a bleak picture of the drinking patterns of our next generation in mind, and with our most sacred responsibilities as parents at risk, how can we say yes to an age of indulgence?

Lumpkins is a longtime Southern Baptist minister, and author of *Alcohol Today: Abstinence in an Age of Indulgence* (Hannibal Books). His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length.





# Practical Principles for Christian Living

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 3



## Substance Abuse: Methamphetamine

By Rob Chambers

Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission

Much has been said in the news about the illegal drug methamphetamine (or meth) and cold and sinus medications like Sudafed containing the drug pseudoephedrine.

Meth is a highly addictive, illegal drug that has an intense stimulating effect on the brain. Meth typically contains ingredients like Drano and ammonia nitrate (fertilizer), but the necessary ingredient for producing meth is pseudoephedrine. Without pseudoephedrine meth cannot be made.

In response to widespread use and problems associated with meth, Mississippi lawmakers recently passed a law that will make cold and sinus medications like Sudafed available only by a doctor's prescription. This law is effective July 1, 2010.

Meth comes in various forms and has the appearance of crystal, shards of glass, or white powder if ground up. Meth users typically smoke, ingest, or inject the drug.

The Partnership for a Drug-free America says that after consumption "the user experiences an intense sensation, called a rush or flash, that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Snorting or swallowing meth



Chambers

irritability/aggression, anxiety, nervousness, convulsions and heart attack."

Users of this highly addictive drug can quickly develop a tolerance to meth that causes them to consume higher amounts of meth more frequently to get the same high. They often go for long periods of time without food and sleep in order to feed their increasing addiction. It is not uncommon for these addicts to consume more meth every few hours over a period of several days until they either run out of meth or become too dysfunctional to continue.

The Partnership for a Drug-free America also states "chronic use can cause paranoia, hallucinations, repetitive behavior (such as compulsively cleaning, grooming or disassembling and assembling

produces euphoria - a high, but not a rush. After the initial "rush," there is typically a state of high agitation that in some individuals can lead to violent behavior. Other possible immediate effects include increased wakefulness and insomnia, decreased appetite,

objects), and delusions of parasites or insects crawling under the skin. Users can obsessively scratch their skin to get rid of these imagined insects. Long-term use, high dosages, or both can bring on full-blown toxic psychosis (often exhibited as violent, aggressive behavior). This violent, aggressive behavior is usually coupled with extreme paranoia."

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics made 981 arrests for meth and seized 620 meth labs in 2009. The associated cost for the state to clean up these meth labs will average about \$3 million. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, as of 2008, stated that meth is the fastest growing drug threat for Mississippi. The agency also said that meth leads to violent crime because users need to steal so that they can sustain their addiction.

Not only does crime associated with the use of meth affect property owners, it also affects the family members of meth addicts.

The MS Department of Human Services has reported that so far this year they have removed at least 30 children from meth homes. These children often become foster children who are also in need of medical care. The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics estimates the cost associated with 'each' meth-abuse case to

be \$100,000.

These innocent children are caught in the cross-hairs of their parent's addiction who will do nearly anything to get their next 'high'.

The Clarion Ledger on March 2, 2010 quoted one Hinds County judge saying he "had one case where meth parents were letting their friends and their friends' friends have sex with their 12-year-old daughter for crystal meth." It is unfortunate to have to include this incident in this article but is necessary to understand the devastating effect meth has on people and those they know - even their family.

Mind-altering substances, like meth and even alcohol, hinder the user's ability to speak wisely and make sound judgments (Prov. 23:29-33; Isaiah 28:7) that God requires (Rom. 12:1-2).

These people and their families need help. There are many resources in Mississippi to help someone with substance abuse. Among them is the Samaritan Counseling Center at the MS Baptist Medical Center. They can be reached at 601-973-1697. Also, Summit Counseling Center at First Baptist Church Jackson, 601-949-1949.

The author can be contacted at [rchambers@ChristianAction.com](mailto:rchambers@ChristianAction.com).

## Rankin uses blog to slam Chapman, state conventions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) - Clinton native Jerry Rankin, retiring president of the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., is using his personal blog to pick fights with the retiring president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Morris Chapman - himself a native of Kosciusko - and state Baptist conventions over how funds are allotted for missions.

In an undated entry on his blog, Rankin accused Chapman of not believing the Great Commission is the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention. Citing a Feb. 12 Baptist Press story about the Fellowship of State Executive Directors' annual meeting, Rankin, who was not present at the meeting, wrote, "Dr. Morris Chapman found a receptive audience in speaking to the winter meeting of State Executives last month in passionately pointing out that the purpose of our denomination is not the Great Commission but cooperation."

Chapman, in a March 9 statement, said Rankin has mischaracterized his convictions about cooperation among Southern Baptists. At least two Baptist leaders who heard

Chapman's remarks seemed to agree.

Rankin, in his blog, wrote: "Watch for those who stand to lose entitlements of a system that hasn't been moving us toward effective engagement of the lost," referencing proposals by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in their progress report released during the Executive Committee's Feb. 22-23 meeting in Nashville.

"Apparently it doesn't matter whether we impact a lost world or accomplish anything else as long as we cooperate together," Rankin wrote. "In fact, it was said that the formula for Cooperative Program allocations must not change. I now understand why for 17 years I and my staff have been meeting with the budget workgroup of the Executive Committee, presenting our required report on funding needs, but nothing is ever done. It is just a meaningless exercise of denominational bureaucracy."



Chapman

American Mission Board, Woman's Mission Union and the state conventions to report "on what we are all doing in missions, supposedly to enhance mission awareness," Rankin observed. "Pressing to know if there is an outcome that is supposed to result from this event. I am usually told that the event is an end in itself. Nothing is done that actually enlists and equips the church for missions involvement once the week is over."

Turning to state convention and Baptist associational meetings, Rankin asked, "Is there any outcome that made a difference, or do we continue to expend time, energy and expense on

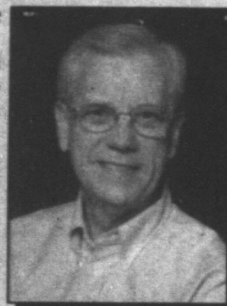
"One of my exasperations in working cooperatively with other convention entities has been the difficulty in nailing down the purpose of what is being done," Rankin wrote, citing On Mission Celebrations, formerly called World Mission Conferences, as an example. Local Baptist associations host representatives from the IMB, North

just being who we are? ..."

"I am saddened that Jerry so blatantly misrepresented my comments," Chapman said in a statement released March 9. "The men who heard me speak know what I said, what I think of Christ and His commands, and where I think cooperation falls in any list of priorities. I would never say that cooperation is the purpose of our Convention. It is only a means to an end - to assist Southern Baptists in working together for the common purpose of furthering the Kingdom of God."

Rankin was not present for the luncheon where Chapman spoke nor for any part of the state executive director's meeting, the group's president, Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said in response to an e-mail query from Baptist Press.

Jack Kwok, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, told Baptist



Rankin

Press, "I did not hear Dr. Chapman say that cooperation is the main purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention. I can't imagine him saying that because the Great Commission is the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention and we cooperate to obey the Great Commission. Anything that would mitigate the Great Commission, I cannot imagine Dr. Chapman saying."

Kwok, after reading Rankin's blog March 9, said he contacted another state executive who also was at the luncheon, who told him he likewise had not heard Chapman make the statement as described by Rankin.

Chapman concluded his statement to Baptist Press by noting: "It grieves me that Jerry used this open forum to question my allegiance to my Lord and the mandate He has given me, to us as Southern Baptists, and to all who call on His Name. I pray he will retract his unjustified remarks. They do not befit a man of his position and stature."



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ZVAC GSHT MENCTLL  
VP AED, SCW XHETW,  
LSJECR NAEL MSL AT VP  
MAVD E LKSFT, AT NASN  
XVDTNA SPNTH DT EL  
KHTPTHHTW GTPVHT  
DT: PVH AT MSL  
GTPVHT DT.

ZVAC VCT: PEPNTTC

Clue: A = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Two

## SPRING CLEANING

Spring is a great time of the year but it nearly always features a new intensity related to cleaning. After the fall transition and the cold winter months, nearly everything around us needs some sprucing up, cleaning up, and fixing up so spring cleaning gets our attention. Recently, I watched as a man brought a Christmas tree out to the curb for the trash pickup. When I say recently I looked at the calendar when this happened, and it was March 10. I am talking about it was a genuine, undeniable, formerly green Spruce Christmas tree. He was pulling it from the front of the house to be carried away. My immediate thought was what kind of conversation went on in that house over the past few months. Here we are two and one half months past Christmas and they are finally throwing the tree away.

Probably the husband or wife, or maybe both of them had said to each other, "When are you going to get that tree out of here?" I do not know what happened after that but the tree remained a part of the decorations of New Years, Presidents Day, Valentines, and even Groundhog Day. Some spring-cleaning was needed.

In II Kings 20, there is that incredible experience of Hezekiah being so sick, sick even unto death. The Word comes to him, "Set your house in order." That is a good word for everyone of us, for there are times that our houses and more importantly our lives can get out of order. Down in the depths of our hearts and even in the outward expressions of our lives, we need a spring-cleaning. Of course, in this passage of Scripture the Word is not talking about Hezekiah's home or his house but rather his life. Realizing that life would be coming to an end there were some things that needed to be straightened up, fixed up, shaped up, and cleaned up. He needed to set his house in order. We all could benefit greatly from listening to what he heard. Three things come to my heart when I hear this passage.

First, there is a time for cleaning. Like the fellow who finally decided he would get the Christmas tree out in March, it just seems to me that it was about time that he did it. I guess



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

he could have left it there until the next Christmas, but probably not. It was time to get rid of it. Keeping a Christmas tree until the month of March is a long while, and it was time to set the house in order. Just think about it. Are there things that you have accumulated in your heart that have been there for a long time? You may not have intended to keep some of the things that you have accumulated as long as you have. In fact, there was a time that you probably would never have dreamed that you would have just drifted along holding on to some of the things that you have. You may have just gotten accustomed to them being in the places where they are in your heart and you just kind of ignore them and walk around them. There they are like a Christmas tree in March. Maybe it is time to clean some things out and set your house in order. Now — today is the time.

The second thing that comes to my heart that is pertinent to this issue is that there are things that if you look around in your heart you may find some things that need to be carried out to the curb for they have just piled up as trash in your life. Maybe there is some habit that you have developed, and it does you no good at all except to hurt you more and more. Yet you just go on holding on to it. Get rid of it! Maybe you have been carrying some grudge for a long time. In fact, it started out as a rather small object in your heart and now everyday it occupies some of your time, a piece of your emotions, and a great deal of

your energy. The crazy thing has grown as you carry it around. Maybe someone did not treat you fairly. They may have just stabbed you in the back outright or punched you in the mouth emotionally if not physically. I understand. We have all had those days. Now instead of letting it go and moving on in life you make sure that it is sitting center stage in your heart. You get up and waddle through life carrying this thing. You do not need to and you do not want to, so determine today will be spring cleaning day in your heart. Set your house in order. Get it out! What a relief it will be.

So many folks try to go on in life and can hardly keep going because they do carry so many things, so many issues, and so many burdens. They do not know how or if they can deal with them. I think of that dear lady who was causing a firestorm of public humiliation as she was brought before Jesus having been caught committing adultery. As the accusers circled her and cried out for her just punishment to be inflicted, they said, "She should be stoned." Jesus wrote something on the ground and then He addressed the crowd and said, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone." They begin to back away. Then He said to her, "You do not have to carry this with you. Go and sin no more!"

Whether we are the one who has been hurt or the one who has brought the hurt to others, we can be renewed, forgiven, and set free. Jesus will clean all of the brokenness and burdens out of our lives and send us on our way to sin no more. What things would the Holy Spirit bring to your mind that you need to go ahead and let the Lord work in your heart and set those things out on the curb to be picked up by a trash truck?

The third thought that comes to my mind is there is a truck. A truck you say. Yes, some communities have pickup services right after Christmas, and they have special trucks designated to go around and haul off the Christmas trees so that you will not have to leave them sitting in your home. A truck is made available to carry all that stuff off. Thanks be to God we have a truck. Well not a truck, but He is a redemptive Savior. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

Do you know that you cannot forgive sin? The only One who can promises to lift it, take it away, and pay for it by His own death on the cross. A truck, well no not really, but a Deliverer no less, as Jesus comes to do what no one else can do. He can cleanse us. He is available to you and me today. Allow Him to do His work.

The author can be contacted at  
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**FBC, BYHALIA, MS, A SOUTHERN**  
Baptist congregation in the greater Memphis area, is seeking F/T Pastor with seminary degree and 5 yrs. Pastoral experience. Resumes will be accepted thru May 31. Send to FBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 246, Byhalia, MS, 38611.

**LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
Biloxi, seeking Minister of Music. Traditional and blended services. E-mail resumes to lbcbsecretary@yahoo.com.

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**FBC, BOYLE, MS IS SEEKING RESUMES**  
for a Pastor to lead our church according to God's will. Qualifications will be those set forth in the New Testament 1 Timothy 3. Submittal deadline is March 31. Please forward resume to: FBC Boyle c/o PSC, P.O. Box 216, Boyle, MS 38730



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

12. Members of Highland Church, Meridian, went on a day trip to Blue Mountain College, touring the campus, eating in the dining hall, and hearing a presentation by president Bettye Coward. Shown are the participants.



12. Highland Church, Meridian

13. First Church, Oloh, held a deacon ordination service Jan. 24. Shown are Heather Smith, Gary (Bubba) Smith, Amy Landrum, Mike Landrum, Deanna Williford, and Josh Williford. James Moore, pastor.



13. First Church, Oloh

14. The Brotherhood of Holcomb Church, Grenada Co., have adopted a cabin at North Central Association's Lakeside Assembly, replacing ceilings, floors, the porch's roof, and painting. Shown are Jimmy Hamilton, Marshall Smith, Billy Brasher, Cole Dally, Abe Williams, Leon Lumley, and Joe Winstead. Bob Johnson, pastor.

15. Strong River Church, Pinola, ordained Allen R. Spangler, III to the gospel ministry Mar. 7. He holds degrees from William Carey University and Southern Seminary. Shown are Spangler, his wife, Keisha, and pastor Roger Lee.



14. Brotherhood of Holcomb Church, Grenada Co.

16. First Church, Laurel, recently hosted Hank Hough, Kingdom Dog Ministries, at the church's wild game supper. Shown is pastor Randy Turner, Hough, and one of Hough's dogs.

17. Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch is hosting LifeWay's You & Your Girl conference for mothers and daughters, featuring Vicki Courtney, Mar. 27, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Music, The Sonflowerz; Jackie Kendall, Pam Gibbs, Sissy Goff, Melissa Treyathan, Carrie Hopkins Osborne, and Becky Loyd, breakout leaders. Admission for moms, \$45; 1st daughter, \$30; each additional daughter, \$15. Women may register at [www.lifeway.com/your-girl](http://www.lifeway.com/your-girl) or call (800) 254-2022.

18. Greens Creek Church, Petal, will host a Family Weekend Conference Mar. 20 - 21; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Frank Senters, speaker.



15. The Spanglers and Lee



16. First Church, Laurel

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1. Edna Church, Columbia



2. Ebenezer Church, Attala Association



3. Midway Church, Pontotoc



4. Lake Como Church, Bay Springs



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Edna Church, Columbia, ordained Jeff Williamson and Mike Dykes as deacons Feb. 21. Shown are Williamson, pastor Kenny Peavey, and Dykes.
2. Ebenezer Church, Attala Association, recently ordained Hayward Walters and Dwyane Hodges as deacons. Shown are Walters, Jackie. Walters, pastor Larry Harvey, Jackie Hodges, and Hodges.
3. The WMU of Midway Church, Pontotoc, celebrated a Hat's On day for reaching their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. Shown are the participants.
4. Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, ordained Heath Johnson to the ministry. He is serving as pastor of Sulphur Springs Church. Shown are pastor Keith Ulmer, Johnson, and the ordination council.
5. Dixie Church, Hattiesburg's Kids Cooking in God's Kitchen class prepared a sampling for the church Feb. 28. Ken and Trisha Strickland, leaders. Shown are the participants.
6. Meadowview Church, Starkville, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Apr. 11 - 13, 7 p.m.
7. Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, is hosting the Shine Out Student Conference Apr. 24, 2 - 9 p.m. Pre-registration, \$20, by Apr. 10; \$25 at the door. For more information, call (601) 757-6386; visit [www.shine-out.org](http://www.shine-out.org).
8. Gumpond, Juniper Grove, and Cane Creek Churches are having a Cuevas Fish Fry Fundraiser for a South Dakota mission trip at the Carousel Parking Lot, Poplarville. Plates, \$8.
9. Jones Association is sponsoring an Answers in Genesis Conference Mar. 28 - 30, at West Ellisville Church. The conference promotes the message of biblical authority as well as creation-apologetic materials and educational resources to churches and communities. Conference speaker, Tommy Mitchell. Free; a love offering will be received. For more information, call (601) 649-8114 or visit [answersingenesis.org/go/Ellisville](http://answersingenesis.org/go/Ellisville).

10. New Life Fellowship, Oakland, is hosting a preaching conference Mar. 25, 6:30 p.m. and Mar. 26, 9:30 a.m. For more information, call pastor Jerry W. Smith at (662) 623-0009 or 628-0146.

11. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, held their 3rd annual wild game supper Feb. 27. Attendance was over 330, which was the largest community outreach event in the church's history. Malcolm Taylor, former NFL linebacker, speaker.



5. Dixie Church, Hattiesburg

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# Witness presented through seminary teacher's manual

MUMBAI, India (BP) — "I've rarely found anyone who said they didn't want to learn the piano," the seminary music professor said after arriving in Mumbai, India.

Dorothy Atcheson (not her real name), who teaches at one of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries in the United States, led a team of six women into Mumbai's communities and slums to teach keyboarding and, in the process, share the Gospel.

Atcheson has pioneered a program at her seminary by which non-musicians can teach piano using a resource she developed called The Keyboard Mission. Using Atcheson's method, students can learn to play simple melodies in three to five sessions, while the words of the songs teach biblical truths.

"By the end of five days, they can play Jesus Loves Me; Amazing Grace; Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior; and Jesus Loves the Little Children," Atcheson said.

She has been using keyboarding as a bridge to sharing the Gospel cross-culturally for several years, including three earlier overseas trips. The idea for the program came to Atcheson several years ago.

"The president of our seminary kept talking about [sharing the Gospel cross-culturally]," Atcheson recalled. "[The] music [department] was not involved in [that]. So I began praying. The Lord told me, 'Well, you play the keyboard. Use it ...'"

From there, Atcheson wrote The Keyboard Mission, linking musical concepts with biblical truth. As keyboarding teams present the material, they also present the Gospel.

Atcheson had used the material exclusively with unbelievers in other countries, with the team venturing out on the streets and inviting people to take piano. A number of students came to know Christ. In India, however, the focus changed as church leaders invited various church members to the classes.

At first, this was frustrating. "In my mind, we were not doing what we came here to do," Atcheson said. However, as the teaching began, the reason for the changed focus became clear to Atcheson, and she modified her original plan.

"Some of our team continued to teach

church members, but I selected a few students and offered them two full days of training," Atcheson recounted. "Then they would be equipped to go to other churches and in turn equip others to do the keyboard ministry."

Using this reproducible approach, Atcheson hopes that the piano training and, more importantly, the seeds of the Gospel will spread to other churches and eventually to unbelievers. "The text teaches itself," Atcheson said, "and the hymns... can explain the Gospel."

Churches that do not have a skilled musician can use the material for equipping and outreach, Atcheson added. Pastor Murali (not his real name) agreed. He leads one of the small churches where Atcheson's team worked, and he now wants those who received keyboard lessons to share their training with others in the slum.

"That is the plan of my heart," Murali said.

A member of Atcheson's team, Ann from Goldston Church in North Carolina, has used the program successfully in a number of other countries. She had never played at all when she went on her first trip. "Now," Atcheson said, "she's studying with me at the seminary."

Agni (not his real name) is one of the young men in Murali's church who studied with Ann. Although Agni knew how to play by ear, he wanted to learn to read music and Murali was confident he could easily pick up the skills.

"We had the most fun with him," Ann said. "He will sit down and work and work and work... We've already told him that he will one day make a very good musician for his church. It is exciting to see the Lord use someone like [him] ...to advance to that degree."

Another team member, Bekah of Wakefield Church in Wake Forest, N.C., noted the importance of equipping believers through keyboard training. "It's been great to equip a lot of women who haven't felt they had a place or something of quality to give the church," Bekah said.

Sabeena (not her real name) and Rabia (not her real name) are two such examples. Sabeena is a 17-year-old girl. Rabia is a 57-year-old pastor's wife. Both studied with Atcheson's team in Mumbai.



TEACHING MUSIC, CHRIST — In Mumbai, India, a student receives keyboarding training using classic hymns that convey the basics of faith in Christ. (BP photo)

A few days into the training, Sabeena told Atcheson, "I always wanted a talent to use for God... You have come... and now I have a talent I can share with my church and with others for the Lord!"

Rabia was equally excited. "She laughed at herself a lot," Bekah recounted.

"She says she is 57 years old and this is the first time she's ever done anything like this. [These women] are becoming equipped to go out and share the Gospel. They are being empowered to go out and have an impact in their community."

For Atcheson, this is music to her ears.

## Error noted in GCRTF report to SBC Executive Committee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has published a correction to the data it provided the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force (GCRTF) and was published in the GCRTF interim report.

NAMB accepted responsibility for the previous incorrect information, saying facts it had provided the task force last summer contained a "significant error." NAMB issued the statement subsequent to a report about the task force's work by religion writer Bob Smietana in The Tennessean in Nashville, the second largest daily paper in the state.

In that article, Smietana wrote that the task force "says two-thirds of the mission board's missionaries and money goes to the South while one-third goes to pioneer states."

"However, according to the mission board, fewer than half of their missionaries are in the South. While the board spends \$62 million on cooperative agreements and state programs, more

than three-quarters of that money, \$48 million, goes to pioneer states."

NAMB said the misunderstanding was created by information contained on page 19 of the task force report, depicting how Southern Baptist resources are distributed throughout the U.S. and that shows only 33% of its missionaries are assigned outside "the 14 states most often considered to be the area where Southern Baptists are the strongest."

In actuality, NAMB said there are 2,733 missionaries serving in the 36 states outside the "old line" region in the southern U.S. and another 133 serving in Canada for a total of 53 percent deployed in North America where there aren't large numbers of Southern Baptists.

NAMB attributed the discrepancy to double counting of missionaries in Virginia and Texas which each have two state conventions. In the statement on its website, NAMB also clarified that more than three-fourths of the \$62 mil-

lion it disperses in cooperative agreements and other funding goes to the 36 pioneer states and Canada. NAMB said the \$48 million goes to support work "where Southern Baptist church presence is the least."

Although referred to as "pioneer" areas for the SBC, these states and Canada contain several of the largest urban and metropolitan areas in North America.

Richard Harris, NAMB's interim president, said NAMB immediately took action when the error was discovered. "We found the error (March 5) while in the process of gathering data for a media inquiry," Harris said in a statement to Baptist Press. "As soon as we discovered the mistake, we notified the GCR Task Force."

Harris added, "We will leave it to the GCR Task Force members and others to determine the significance of these new numbers, we just wanted to provide this information as soon as we discovered it

so the rest of the discussion can include the correct data."

Ronnie Floyd, GCRTF chairman and pastor of First Church in Springdale Ar., said the change in missionary numbers did not alter the major concern of the task force. "[W]e spend 2/3 of the Cooperative Program dollars on 1/3 of the population and conversely spend only 1/3 of the Cooperative Program dollars on 2/3 of the population in the United States," Floyd said.

The 2/3 and 1/3 CP comparison primarily is a ratio of CP dollars the churches of the various state conventions contribute to their respective state's work. The 14 "southern" state conventions have large numbers of SBC churches and consequently benefit from more total CP dollars than the 36 states in "pioneer" areas which have significantly fewer SBC congregations.

Floyd said the online manuscript of the progress report has been updated with the corrected NAMB information.



## STAFF CHANGES

1. **Joe Young**, church planter/pastor, Calvary Church, Parchman, has been named Delta Regional Missions Strategist by the Missions Strategy Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will assist with mission strategy in Washington, Mid-Delta, North Delta, Panola, and North Central Associations. Young has led in the planting of over 25 churches in the Delta and in Latin America. He attended Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, and is a bivocational pastor-educator, serving nearly 35 years in the Charleston schools and Northwest Community College as a Spanish teacher. He has been married 33 years to the former Joanne Adams of Charleston. The Youngs have three grown children and three grandchildren. He plans on continuing to serve at Calvary Church.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Neely Church, Neely:** Revival, Mar. 21 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and afternoon service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Phillip Price, speaker; special music nightly; J. Wilbur Hall, pastor.
2. **Janice Church, Janice:** Revival, Mar. 22 - 28; youth night, Mar. 22, with guest speaker Yancey Waltman and music by the 38th Ave. Church Praise Band; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; other services, 7 p.m.; John Neihof, speaker.
3. **Elam Church, Coffeeville:** 150th anniversary May 23; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and singing.
4. **First Church, Vicksburg:** Revival, Mar. 26 - 28; Fri. - Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Fri. speaker, Tyson Lee; Sat. - Sun. speaker, Ron Meeks; Matt Buckles, pastor.
5. **First Church, Boyle:** Revival, Mar. 28 - 31; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by meal and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed. 10:30am and 6:30 p.m. Fish Robinson, speaker; Tom Edwards, music.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **First Church, Byhalia,** honored Waurene Going for 53 years of service as WMU leader. Shown are Going and Deborah Hamblin.
2. **First Church, Byhalia** recently honored Jeff Simpson with a plaque for 10 years of service to the Royal Ambassadors. Shown are Simpson and Russ McClure.



1. Going and Hamblin



2. Simpson and McClure

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Blue Mountain College** is hosting high school choral groups from throughout the region for the 2010 Blue Mountain College Choral Festival Apr. 13. There is no fee for participating, and the performances will be open to the public. The festival will begin at 9 a.m., and each choir will have 20 minutes for warm-up in Garrett Hall Auditorium, and then perform two songs for 20 minutes in the Berry Auditorium, inside the administration building. For complete information, contact Jerri Lamar Kantack at (662) 685-4771 extension 163 or jkantack@bmc.edu.
2. **The Northeast Mississippi Community College BSU** took its 15th consecutive Martin Luther King Holiday mission trip to Bourbon St., New Orleans, Jan. 15 - 18. Thirty-one students came from Mississippi State, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and Northeast. The group handed out gospel tracts, and used signs to attract attention which read "If you are born once, you will die twice. If you are born twice, you will die once." The trip has proven to be a "witnessing laboratory" for the students that go. The NEMCC BSU thanks all the churches that support them with prayer and finances. Shown are some of the participants.
3. Prospective business students, business leaders and educators from around the area will gather April 6 at **Blue Mountain College** for an open house and luncheon. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and will conclude with a 12:30 p.m. luncheon. The deadline for pre-registration is April 1. For complete information contact Jay Page at (662) 685-4771 extension 124, or by email: majorinbusiness@bmc.edu.
4. U.S. Senator Roger Wicker will deliver the **Blue Mountain College** commencement address during the May 8 graduation ceremonies.
5. **William Carey University** and **Mississippi College** have been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Role, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.
6. **Mississippi College** will host its annual Relay for Life on the Quad Apr. 9. The relay will begin at 6 p.m. Friday and will conclude at 7 a.m. Apr. 10. MC students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to participate.
7. International lawyer Jonathan C. Hamilton of Washington, DC, **William Carey University Baptist Student Union** Director Tim Glaze, and the honorable Charles Pickering are shown talking following Hamilton's speech to WCU faculty, staff, students and guests during the Christian Leadership Lecture held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Hamilton is a partner in the global law firm of White & Case LLP, which was founded on Wall Street in New York City over a century ago and is widely recognized as a preeminent pioneer in international legal practice.
8. Fervent Records recording artist Big Daddy Weave hits the road this week for the We Want the World to Hear tour featuring guests artists Chris and Conrad. Heading into their 11th year with all original members, Big Daddy Weave will visit over 20

cities across the South, Midwest and Southeast performing songs from their latest album "What Life Would Be Like" and other Big Daddy Weave favorites. They will perform, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium at **William Carey University**. The concert is part of WCU's Homecoming 2010 celebration. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. A group rate of \$10 per person is available for groups of 20 or more through April 1. Tickets can be purchased in Hattiesburg at Bob's Books, LifeWay Christian Stores, and Main Street Books or by calling (601)318-6561.

9. Prospective students are invited to Preview Day at **William Carey University** March 27 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Registration and breakfast is 8 a.m. until 9:15 a.m. in Thomas Fine Arts Center, followed by a welcome and opening session in Smith Auditorium. For more information call 601-318-6103, 800-962-5991 ext. 103 or visit [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).



2. Northeast Mississippi Community College BSU



7. Hamilton, Glaze, and Pickering



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE When Members Insist On Their Way

I Corinthians 8:1-4, 7-13; 10:31-33

By Marion D. Duncan

The eighth chapter of First Corinthians is about freedom—a word that means different things to different people. Freedom often comes from precious sacrifice making it greatly valued all over the world. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, speaking to congress, proposed that the “goal of American policy be the establishment throughout the world of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.” (*First Corinthians for Today*, by Robert J. Dean)

The Bible is authority on true freedom—freedom that comes from Christ. “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32) This freedom released Christians

from the yoke of legalism they had known under the old law; but, brought with it a new and greater responsibility to temper all actions with love.

The word for “know” in 8:1 refers to the “investigative process.” In 8:2, the word used for “know” is a deeper and more experiential knowledge that leads to moral wisdom.

True knowledge of God involves experiential knowledge; it comes not by the investigative process, but by loving God.

The Christians in the church at Corinth exhibited pride in their intellectual knowledge, not understanding that knowledge alone is an insufficient guide for Christian conduct. Believers must be guided by love and should not allow disagreements over non-essential matters harm fellowship in the church.



Duncan

“My freedom ends where my neighbor’s nose begins” sums up a basic principle of human freedom: my freedom is limited by the rights and needs of others. This limited freedom is addressed by Paul as he answers a question posed by the

Corinthian church in the area of interpersonal relations. One group in the church thought eating meat sacrificed to idols was no problem in light of their recently gained freedom through Christ. Idolatry was meaningless because there is one true God.

Others in the church, who had participated in rituals of idolatry before coming to know Christ, could not with a clear conscience eat such meat because “it is defiled” (8:7). The practice of sacrificing animals to idols involved more than what these words say. An immoral culture existed around this practice. Eating the sacrificed meat was a part of the pagan worship and economy they had practiced.

Paul shares his belief about meat sacrificed to idols in verse 4-7, and in verse 8, says food has no bearing on our relationship with God. “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom (i.e. eating meat sacrificed to idols) does not become a stumbling block to the weak.” If a weaker brother does something because he saw you do it, and that act encourages him to do something more serious, your influence caused him to stumble and fall. God does not give other believers the right to force unwanted freedom on new believers.

Consider the common problem today of beverage alcohol abuse. If a Christian believes that beverage alcohol is merely a harmless social custom, is he cleared of the responsibility for the care of his body and protection of his influence when he uses beverage alcohol? “Your body is a temple of the Lord; . . . You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.” (I Corinthians 6:19-20) Paul wrote when we sin against our brothers and wound their weak conscience, we sin against Christ.

“Therefore, if what I eat (or drink, or do) causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat (or drink, or do) again, so that I will not cause him to fall.” (I Corinthians 8:13)

Chapter 9 deals with those who invoke the principle of Christian freedom and liberty. Paul is well aware of his freedoms as a Christian, but he is equally aware of his Christian responsibility. “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” (9:19 NIV)

Next, Paul addressed the Corinthian Christians who stressed doing as they pleased, not disciplining themselves for a higher purpose. Believers’ chief focus in life should be to honor and glorify God in everything they do. “We have only to choose between bondage to the Father, which makes us free, and bondage to the powers of this world, which enslaves us.” (Dean)

Duncan is a member of First Church, Macon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE Amazing Deliverance

Exodus 11:1-13:16

By Shelby Hazzard

New Beginning –  
Exodus 12:1-5

Moses and Aaron sparred with Pharaoh for nine plagues yet he would not release the Israelites. The time had come for the final plague, the death of the firstborn, which would result in Egypt “driving out” the Israelites, commemorated in the festival of the Passover.

Now, it was a new day for Israel. They could leave and exist as an independent nation thanks to the Lord. The Christian also experiences a new day, for Christ has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14).

Christ was able to deliver us into the Kingdom of God through His death because of his sinlessness. Christ was

not born like a natural man, he was born of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary and lived and died sinless. Notice the requirement for the Passover lamb; it was to be male and unblemished (without defect) representing the sinless and perfect Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). In Christ we have a new beginning, a new life, a freed conscience and peace with God and man.

Urgent Attitude –  
Exodus 12:6-11

The instructions for the Passover were simple but exact. They were to choose a perfect animal, tend it for fourteen days, slaughter it and smear the blood on the door of the home. After slaying the animal, they were to roast it and eat it “all” and “in haste,” with their “cloak



Hazzard

tucked into their belt, their sandals on and staff in hand.”

Why these urgent instructions? First, God was teaching them about the cost of sin through blood atonement, the life of the creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life (Lev 17:11). Second, he was preparing them; within hours Pharaoh would “drive them out,” so they needed to be ready for action.

As God’s children we need to have urgency of attitude in witnessing, praying, preaching, teaching, and all other disciplines taught in Scripture for we never know when God is about to do something that requires our involvement. 2 Timothy 1:7, For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Divine Mercy –  
Exodus 13:12-13

The death angel brings judgment on the gods, first-

born sons and cattle of Egypt. The only homes untouched by the plague are the Israelites who smeared the blood on the doorposts; they received mercy from God, sparing their firstborn sons, through blood sacrifice.

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). All humanity is born with Adam’s sin nature, separated from God and dead in sin. Only the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus can protect us from the coming wrath and judgment of God.

As the faithful Israelite homes were “washed” with the blood of the Lamb, the Apostle John’s vision shows us that there will be a great multitude in heaven from every nation, tribe, people and language that have come out of the great tribulation; that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14).

Are you white in the blood of the lamb, or separated from God in sin?

Precious Memory –  
Exodus 12:14

The similarities in the Passover and Lord’s Supper are no coincidence. As the Lord commanded Israel to sacrifice a lamb and smear the blood on the doorposts to be protected from God’s temporal judgment, the Lord sent His Son to be the sacrificial lamb to die on the cross to provide a way of salvation from God’s eternal and final judgment.

In the exodus, the Israelites were freed from the physical bondage of slavery, abuse and death, however, in Christ, anyone who hears the Gospel and is given spiritual new birth through repentance and faith is freed from the bondage of sin and granted eternal life. This is why those that are born again by his Spirit and washed by his blood should celebrate the Lord’s Supper regularly as a reminder of what God has done for us in Christ. We have been delivered, redeemed and sealed for all eternity!

Hazzard is minister of evangelism, First Church, Greenville.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person’s address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DECEMBER 23 - 31, 2009

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The Adult III SSC, N Columbia BC  
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Jeff & Donna Tarver  
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Wilkinson

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Glenda & Jerry Fry  
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John R. Woods  
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Wallace Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian L. Houston  
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Sherry Wall  
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Arlington Heights  
BC, Pascagoula

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Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
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## SPRING ACTIVITY SPONSORSHIPS

It's that time of year where we have begun signing up the children for their spring activities. This year we have children involved in community baseball, school athletics, school pageants, cheerleading among other things. It is a fun, yet, busy time of the year for the children and we need your help to fund these rewarding activities. You may send a contribution online at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) or to P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027. Make sure to note that your gift is for activities.



### UPDATE: Powell-Walley Campus in Waynesboro

Construction workers poured the slab for a cottage on the new campus of The Baptist Children's Village in Waynesboro on the first day of February. The crew has made progress on the project and we are hopeful to have children on the campus by the Fall.



# Slain pastor remembered on anniversary of tragedy

MARYVILLE, Ill. (BP and local reports) — One day short of the first anniversary of the shooting death of pastor Fred Winters, his church family at First Church in Maryville, Ill., gathered to remember him and hear testimony of God's sufficiency from his widow Cindy.

The Illinois Baptist pastor was shot and killed March 8, 2009, while preaching, making headline news across the country. Two church members who subdued the gunman when his handgun jammed were injured but have recovered.

Terry Joe Sedlacek was charged with one count of first-degree murder in Winters' death and two counts of aggravated assault in the subsequent fight with the two church members, but has been declared mentally unfit to stand trial. He had no known connection to the church prior to the shooting.

During the March 7, 2010, service, Maryville's interim pastor, Tom Huffy, expressed appreciation to community emergency responders and then introduced Cindy Winters to a standing ovation. Winters shared her testimony of the events of that morning, saying, "Many people ask where God was on March 8. I don't have any great words of wisdom, but I know where God was. He was with me."

Winters relayed her confusion when she arrived at church that morning, not knowing about the shooting,

and found traffic congested because of emergency vehicles at the church. A friend told her in the parking lot of the church that her husband had been shot.

She rushed to the nearby hospital where Winters was being treated and was told his injuries were serious, but that she could see him. However, when she entered the treatment room, a nurse expressed condolences for her loss.

"You mean he's dead?" she asked. "Yes, we just pronounced it" was the reply.

That night, Winters said, she helped her two young daughters "dig through the dirty clothes to find something that smelled like their dad. I felt so helpless. It was the saddest thing I've ever experienced."

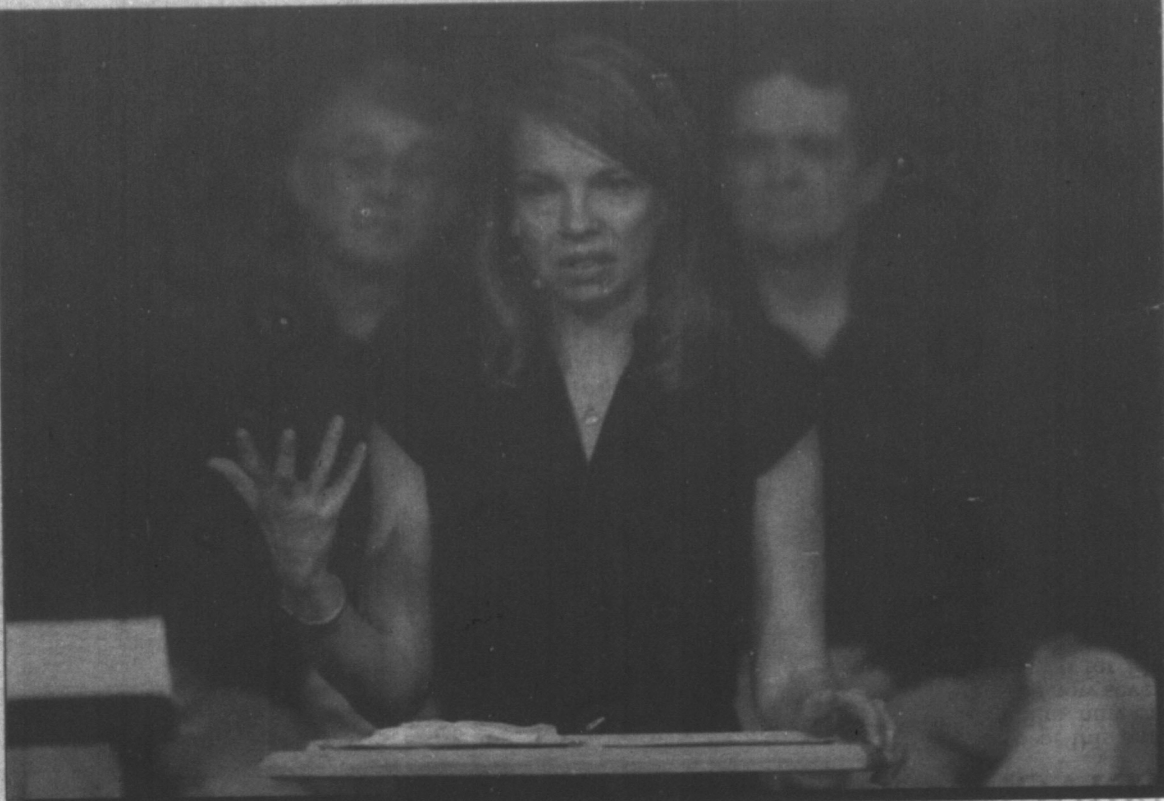
In such circumstances, Winters encouraged the congregation to focus on how real heaven is. "It doesn't take away our pain, but it does help keep things in perspective. God was in my bedroom that night, reminding me that Fred was in a perfect place."

"I went to the pit; and God

was in the pit. ...There is hope in chaos, and there is joy in the darkest circumstances. I always believed that, but now I know it."

Winters said the strength she draws comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. "Not from religion or a set of facts about God or from doing good things,

but from a trusting relationship with God's Son. ...A relationship with Jesus is the one thing that makes sense when nothing else makes sense."



**REMEMBERING HUSBAND** — Cindy Winters, widow of slain pastor Fred Winters, speaks to her church, First Church in Maryville, Ill., during a service honoring her husband who was killed by a gunman while preaching at the church's early worship service in March 2009. (Pool photo courtesy of St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

## First person: Protect tender minds from inappropriate movies

Phil Boatwright  
Correspondent

Here's something most teenagers probably don't know: Movie studios once were regulated by a Motion Picture Code established in the 1930s to protect the values and moral concepts society considered the standard by which to live. Violent acts had to be filmed in a way that would not jolt the viewer. Actors could not utter "God" or "Jesus" in a profane manner. Nudity and perversion could not be shown.

The release of Universal's remake of *The Wolfman* is a prime example of how things have changed. The 1941 version was one of the ultimate good vs. evil parables. Its screenwriter was Curt Siodmak, a German Jew of Polish descent who fled Europe in the 1930s after having seen the transformation of good people into monsters before World War II and Hitler's determined annihilation of the Jewish race.



**Boatwright**

Siodmak's theme had to do with evil overcoming the unaware, his story a metaphor for being on the alert against rising evil.

This earlier version, which starred Lon Chaney Jr., had its share of violent acts. After all, we are talking about man-killing man-wolves. That film, however, was more eerie than graphic.

Is the new version still an allegory, a good vs. evil parable? Faintly. Can you guess what overshadows any symbolic significance? You got it — gore galore.

The new release contains no profanity or graphic sexuality but beware, you're going to see lots of intestines and dismembered body parts.

I know, some of my younger readers just said, "Cool."

The Motion Picture Code is long gone, replaced by the more lax MPAA rating system. If you parents feel this warning system is lacking, and if you teens want to take a stand for your spiritual convictions, there are steps that

can be taken when choosing a movie.

If you're looking for an easy fix, there isn't one. The movie industry moguls take no responsibility for what we view. It's up to us. The first step is to retrain our viewing habits. Here are a few questions teens should ask themselves when choosing movies:

- Do you believe the Bible truly to be the Word of God?
- Do you study His word? (Have you asked God to reveal Himself through its chapters and verses?)
- Can you see through the propaganda of the media? (You will, if you follow those first two objectives.)
- Is your support of a film or TV program going to affect your witness?
- If Jesus were standing next to you, would you go see that film? (He is standing there, you know.)

As adults, if we closely monitor what we support at the box office, it honors God, nurtures loved ones, and is a guidepost for those who scrutinize our walk — especially youngsters who put more import on what adults do than what they say. The following suggestions may be helpful to parents and their children.

- Be careful what you support. How often have you heard this: "You've got to see this film! Jack Nicholson is fabulous!!" Well, Jack Nicholson has been making movies for 40 years. He should be fabulous, but is a good performance reason enough to support a film?

• Be informed. Ever hear this one? "If you haven't seen the film, how can you object to it?" There are now several resources you can turn to for film reviews. Armed with a film's synopsis and content (the reason for the rating), you can discuss a film intelligently without having to subject yourself to objectionable content.

• Communicate with your kids. Years ago, when the first *Batman* was released, several parents asked me: "Should I let my kids see this movie?" I stated that I would hate to be the one who told his teen boy he couldn't see *Batman*. Every adolescent male in the country wanted to see that picture. I'll bet many of the children who were instructed not to attend such a film saw it anyway.

The realization is, you can't protect your children from all of Hollywood's influence. MTV's images and those from the local cinema influence your children whether they view it or not, because the media's messages affect their friends who, in turn, affect them.

I propose that what is even more important than saying "no" to various movies is for your kids to say "yes" to Bible study.

Boatwright reviews films from a Christian perspective and is the author of *Movies: The Good, The Bad, and the Really, Really Bad*. Read his film reviews at [pre-viewonline.org](http://pre-viewonline.org). Boatwright's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.